



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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State Board Expands List of Approved Basic Competency and Content Area Exams for Teacher Certification

JUNEAU -- The State Board of Education & Early Development, meeting December 7-8 by audio conference, adopted amendments to regulations regarding basic competency and Praxis II content area exams.

The adopted amendments expand the list of approved basic competency and content area exams to qualify for Alaska teacher certification. The graduate record examination (GRE) was added to the list of approved basic competency exams in an effort to decrease barriers for educators outside of Alaska to gain Alaska certification. 14 additional content area exams were added to the approved list (view [board packet](#) for complete list).

Additionally, the adopted amendments expand the list of endorsement areas a teacher, with two years of teaching experience in a content area, can add to their current certificate. The additional endorsement areas include Agriculture, Algebra, Computer Science, Journalism, Music, Physical Education, Psychology, Social Studies, and Sociology.

The board also adopted amendments to regulations regarding guidelines for inclusion of students with disabilities and English learners in statewide assessments. Due to changes in the state assessment system, the amendments help ensure students can participate fully in all required state assessments.

The board sent out for public comment proposed regulations regarding a world language expert limited teacher certificate, with the goal of increasing staffing in language immersion classrooms. An individual holding this certificate would only be allowed to provide instruction in the language of expertise.

The board selected Tanis Lorrington of Soldotna High School as its student-advisor elect. She will begin her term as student advisor on July 1, 2018.

The board approved the Alaska's Education Challenge report. Governor Bill Walker subsequently approved the report and the 13 committee recommendations. The Department

of Education & Early Development is working to finalize and publish the report, and outline next steps for discussions with partners and stakeholders in early 2018.

The next board meeting will be on January 29 in Juneau.

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